

Town of Newtown, CT

3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

12-18-2014

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, December 18, 2014 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Quinn at 7:01 pm.

Present: Chairman, Kathy Quinn, Bryan Dougherty, Mark Sievel, Joseph Borst, Charlie Copp, James Gulalo, Dave Stout, Fred Hurley, Barbara Toomey

Absent: Desiree Galassi

Communications:

Ms. Quinn sent a memo to the Building & Site Commission about having sustainable energy looked into as options on all new projects.

Mr. Stout shared with the Commission that he has begun working with Smart Power for a 7 month contract on a new project called Solarize U. Solarize U approaches colleges and universities as municipalities, very similar to the Solarize CT program. This Solarize U program will target staff, students and their families, as well as alumni.

Public Comments:

No public comments.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Mr. Sievel made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Gulalo seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Budget / Grants – Park Lighting

The LED lights for the parks are currently being installed. A press release will be sent out when the project has been completed. Mr. Stout is going to follow up about the current status of the project.

Residential Post Solarize Program

This program has been planned on January 27, 2015 at the CH Booth Library at 6:30 pm with a snow date of January 29, 2015. Cephia will be the primary presenters at the meeting. More information will be sent out shortly.

Solar Projects

The project at the Maintenance Garage is currently up and working.

Mr. Hurley is working on a land use permit for the landfill. There are also other requirements by the DEEP and EPA but he isn't anticipating any problems with the permit currently. The possible project for the landfill will a virtual net metering project that can have the production applied to up to 5 town meters. The funding for the project would be a lease to purchase or a power purchase agreement (PPA). The system would be a megawatt system.

Energy Savings Program – Middle Gate School Update

Mr. Stout walked through the Middle Gate School with vendors to look at the boilers which are from 1954. Mr. Stout stated the exhaust fans were running constantly. He is looking into options to control the amount of time the fans are running as well as getting additional information about the motors running the fans because they shouldn't be running all day.

The boiler was running at 67% efficiency. Mr. Stout stated that a natural gas boiler would pay for itself very quickly based on the costs currently being spent on heating the building.

Middle Gate School is being started with for these projects because it is not being looked for any type of future re-purposing plan.

Newtown can use the CPACE, commercial property assessed clean energy program, to finance the energy saving efforts for Middle Gate.

Mr. Stout has also requested access to the roof of the school from Gino Faiella. Mr. Stout will follow up with Mr. Faiella about this request; he may be able to get access during the holiday break.

Mr. Hurley will be keeping the Building & Site Commission updated on the project at Middle Gate.

A concern was shared about the roof on Reed School, it is 16 years old, and if it is able to support a solar system. It may be possible to build a new roof into a power purchase agreement (PPA) and have a longer payback period. The PPA has the lowest amount of risk and a steady electric rate. The request for proposal (RFP) will be going out soon.

Outreach to Schools

Ms. Quinn has gotten in touch with Dr. Erardi, the Newtown Superintendent and they have a meeting scheduled for January 19 at 10:00 am to talk about getting the students more involved in sustainable energy projects. This time will be used to also tell Dr. Erardi about the Commission and what projects are being planned and what has been completed. They are looking to get the schools more involved in Earth Day as well.

Mygreenapple.org is a great resource for getting students involved in sustainability.

Municipal Energy Plan

Ms. Quinn will start getting information out to the commission within the next month to start creating the plan. The plan is have a 20% reduction in energy usage by 2017 using a baseline set by the commission.

Energy Star Portfolio Manager

The usage information gathered by Ameresco needs to be added as well as start adding current usage data for the town buildings and schools.

Transition Movement

Ms. Toomey will be starting up the meetings again and try to work with the schools as well. She has interest from additional people in joining the meetings.

There is a Department of Education grant for installing a wind turbine for \$10,000 if science lessons are developed around it.

New Business

Mr. Stout made a motion to accept the meeting schedule for 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Toomey. The motion was carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Mr. Gulalo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Borst. The motion was carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting will occur on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center in Shared Meeting Room 3.

Submitted, Jessica Smith, clerk.